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To the Respected Members of the EFSEC Council:

ENERGY FACILITY SITE  
EVALUATION COUNCIL

I would like to take this opportunity to once again commend the EFSEC council on their original decision to recommend denial of this project. I continue to support your denial and trust that you will continue to use your logic and common sense as previously demonstrated.

Although all the issues to be addressed here tonight are topics of grave concern to all of us and should not be overlooked, I have chosen to highlight the concern about flooding in this area. As quite a few people know by now this area has been stricken with flooding 14 times in the last 65 years, none of which have been the 100 year flood. Most recently the 1990 Veterans Day Flood caused millions of dollars of damage to the Sumas City area. The attached pictures represent the SE2 proposed site 2-3 days after the flood waters receded. Note in this picture that a large John Deere tractor and a car were swept off the road by raging floodwaters. This floodway, known as the Everson overflow, is the most extensive and damaging flood area in this county as is quite evident in the Lower Nooksack River Comprehensive Flood Hazard Management Plan.

SE2's proposal to fill this area protecting themselves from flooding, will only stand to serve as a dam for floodwaters thereby increasing water levels and damage to upstream residences and farms. SE2's subsequent suggestion included the possibility of "excavating nearby floodplain areas not directly associated with surface water bodies to increase the hydraulic capacity of the remaining floodplain area." In layman's terms this means they would dig a big hole to catch the water; however, once the hole fills up the proposed SE2 site continues to act as a dam increasing the upstream flood potential.

On one hand, we appear to have the City of Sumas encouraging the construction of a site that would affect the known flood hazards, yet, as recent as September, 2001, the City of Sumas Council Report announces that they are actively seeking Flood Hazard Mitigation Grant funds to be combined with \$65,000 of local funds to purchase four homes at the downstream end of the flood corridor. They state that "the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program aims to reduce future flood damage through the buy-out and/or removal of structures in flood-prone areas." Forgive me for asking, but does the right hand realize what the left hand is doing???

In closing I would like to express my appreciation to you for listening to and understanding our concerns. As part of the farming community in this county, we know that filling in a floodway would be strictly prohibited for us and successful businessmen build on high ground therefore avoiding the possibility of becoming a bad neighbor. Please let common sense prevail.

Thank you for your time and wisdom.

Sincerely,

*Marlene Noteboom*

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pictures taken 2-3 days after  
the 1990 Veteran's Day flood.

